

## LAUNCHING TRAGEDY

Fifty Persons Drowned at Blackwall, Eng.

### DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT

"Backwash" of the Huge Battleship Aboard Demolishes a Platform, Throws Into the Water.

(By Telegraph.)  
LONDON, June 21.—During the launching of the new British class battleship Albion, of 12,500 tons, at Blackwall today, and her christening by the Duchess of York, a ceremony at which the United States ambassador, Colonel John Hay and Mrs. Hay and Lieutenant Colwell, the United States naval attaché, assisted, the displacement of water caused an immense mass of water to rise on all sides, completely submerging one of the lower stages of the yard and immersing hundreds of people.

It is estimated that fifty persons were drowned.

Another, but discredited report, says the warship sank.

This dispatch is sent the bodies of twenty-seven men, women and children have been recovered.

The Duchess of York and Colonel and Mrs. Hay and the remainder of the distinguished company who were at the accident, which occurred at the moment when three cheers were called for the successful launch and the cries and screams of the crowd, were drowned by the outburst of hurrahs and the steamers' sirens.

The victims were mostly working people on a holiday who had trespassed on the shipbuilding yard where the launching took place. They crowded upon a staging from which they had been warned off, but the force of police on the spot was inadequate to control the immense crowd.

About two hundred persons were thrown into the water when the staging, which was supported by the backwash of the huge battleship, was thrown into the water. Most of these were rescued by means of the numerous row boats in the vicinity, but many were drowned.

About sixty of the spectators were injured and had to receive surgical treatment.

Many plucky rescues of drowning persons were made by on-lookers.

Heart-rending scenes were witnessed when the bodies of children and other relatives of those who escaped the disaster were recovered and brought to the land.

The bodies of five men, eighteen women and eleven children have been recovered at Blackwall.

The Duke and Duchess of York have telegraphed assurances of their profound regret and sympathy.

Thousands who witnessed the launching, including the royal party, left the scene quite ignorant of the disaster.

The staging, which was destroyed, was erected for workmen near the stern of the Japanese cruiser in course of construction in the Blackwall yards.

It was a light structure, about fifty feet long, and notched at both ends, warning the public that it was dangerous.

Despite the efforts of the police, some 200 people invaded the staging, which commanded a good view of the launching ceremony. Two great waves completely demolished it, and on receding carried most of its occupants into the water. The water was alive with struggling people and floating debris.

Fortunately there was plenty of help near, in the shape of police boats and the bodies of the victims were recovered by means of the rowing boats which were used to tow the launch. Many of whom were in a state of complete collapse.

### BRIEF ITEMS

Mrs. Arthur Glenn has returned from Washington.

Miss Sadie Gray, of Leesburg, is the guest of Mrs. Hunter H. Haverley.

Mayor-elect A. A. Moss will enter upon his duties as the city's executive July 1.

Miss Winifred Faison, of Faison, N. C., is visiting Mrs. E. M. Braxton, in East End.

Miss M. Hunt Morgan is visiting her uncle and friends in Richmond this week.

Mr. Phillip Carleton, of Washington, is visiting his sister, Mrs. McHenry, on Lafayette avenue.

Mrs. Frank Stoeber and children are sojourning at Backus beach. They will remain there a month.

Miss Emma Bruce will return this week from Boston, where she has been studying music for the past year.

Mrs. Thomas Boyce, of Isle of Wight, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. B. W. Carr, on Washington avenue.

Miss Johnson, of Twenty-fifth street, left last evening for Baltimore, where she will spend the summer with her aunt, Mrs. C. B. Baldwin.

Great Sannap J. H. Nowlan, of Petersburg, who is attending court in this city, made a special visit to Conanche, Va., to see his mother.

The old Dominion Steamship Company's steamer "Nautica," at Elizabeth City, N. C., will be inspected with a view to purchase by the government as a transport.

Battery A, Pennsylvania Artillery, will arrange for another game of ball with a local team of Philadelphia players expected to get a game with the crack Newport team.

Miss E. Harrison Clarke, of North Carolina, is the guest of Mrs. J. E. Clarke on Twenty-seventh street. Miss Clarke is a teacher of experience and contemplates opening a high graded school in the city.

Mr. H. L. Seull, one of the city letter carriers, went to Norfolk yesterday to enlist in Company E, Fourth Regiment, United States Volunteers. This is the first company in which Lieutenant Berkeley and forty young men of this city enlisted.

The United States auxiliary cruiser Harward, which has been at the shipyard for the past two weeks, left the pier yesterday and dropped anchor in the stream. This was done to avoid unnecessary payment of wharfage. The Harward is now ready to sail on the receipt of orders.

Messrs. Walter Scott, D'Arcy Scott and David Callender, of Petersburg, arrived in the city yesterday and enlisted in the Fourth Virginia Regiment. The men reported to Lieutenant Hillyer, the recruiting officer for the Fourth. They go to join Captain Montgomery Jackson's company at Jacksonville.

Forty recruits for Battery C, Captain Waters, arrived yesterday morning at Camp Warburton from Phoenixville, Pa.

Mrs. J. Francis Ribble left yesterday evening for Fauquier county, where she will spend the summer.

## FROM NEWPORT NEWS

(Continued from First Page.)

### GENERAL MERITT

Plans framed for the government of General Meritt when he assumes military command over the Philippines. Therefore it is only fair to assume that Aguinaldo is proceeding in perfect harmony with Admiral Dewey, who in turn has received notice of the Navy Department's intention respecting the Philippines.

### OHIO REPUBLICANS

Grosvenor Delivers an Eloquent Speech at the State Convention.

(By Telegraph.)  
COLUMBUS, O., June 21.—The Republican State Convention today was almost free from the fractional fighting of former years. After the Senatorial contest of last winter, the factions became known as "the national administration men" and "the state administration men." The former had the delegates today from seventeen of the congressional districts and the other four districts were in dispute, owing to county contests. The national administration Republicans were so strong that the opposition to them was not felt anywhere.

Governor Bushnell occupied a luckless position on the platform today and many of the strongest Hanna men object to any resolutions regarding his administration or on the action of the bolting Republicans in the legislature.

On the other hand, the temporary chairman, General C. H. Grosvenor, reviewed the pledges of the party at the St. Louis convention and what had been done since the inaugural of President McKinley, and the state administration men were so strong that the opposition to them was not felt anywhere.

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## INTEREST IN HAWAII

Debate Continues in the Senate.

### OPPOSED TO ANOXEATION

Mr. White, of California, Makes a Strong Speech Against the Proposed Union.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(By Telegraph.)  
WASHINGTON, June 21.—Interest in the discussion of the Hawaiian annexation which is proceeding in the Senate at ready has begun to flag. Early in the present session the Senate debated the question behind closed doors for six weeks. During that time a majority of the speakers were accorded close attention. It is evident from the proceedings today that the Senators will not become so enthusiastic over arguments which are not new to them. Today Mr. White (Democrat), of California, the leader of the opponents of annexation, spoke for three hours and a half. His argument was skillful and was presented with oratorical ability, but it failed to command the attention from Senators it really deserved. Mr. White had concluded his argument when the motions were laid aside for the day. He will resume his speech tomorrow and probably will occupy the entire day.

In the course of his speech Mr. White had read by the clerk a protest of the Japanese minister to this country against the annexation of Hawaii. The protest was signed by the Japanese minister, the Japanese ambassador, and the Japanese minister to the United States.

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## ON THE DIAMOND

Results of Yesterday's Games in the National and Atlantic Leagues.

### WHERE THEY PLAY TODAY

Washington at Louisville.  
Baltimore at Cincinnati.  
Brooklyn at Cleveland.  
Philadelphia at St. Louis.  
New York at Pittsburgh.  
Boston at Chicago.

### STANDING OF THE CLUBS

Clubs W. L. P. C.  
Cincinnati . . . 34 19 642  
Boston . . . 33 20 604  
Baltimore . . . 30 20 600  
Philadelphia . . . 31 21 596  
Chicago . . . 31 23 586  
Pittsburgh . . . 28 25 523  
New York . . . 27 26 519  
Brooklyn . . . 27 27 544  
Washington . . . 22 28 400  
St. Louis . . . 19 34 350  
Louisville . . . 19 35 345

(By Telegraph.)  
CINCINNATI, June 21.—Daring base running by McGraw any day placed hit by Keeler won the game for the Orioles in the tenth inning today. The Reds' fielding was superb. Attendance, 2,300. Score:

Cincinnati . . . 0000002000—2 5 2  
Baltimore . . . 0000100012—4 9 4  
Cincinnati-Hawley and Pletz, Nops and Robinson. Umpires—Snyder and Connelly. Time, 2:30.

CHICAGO, June 21.—Kloeband was wild, miserably supported, and hit hard when his meant runs, and the champions fall easy victims to the nearly perfect play of the Orphans. Attendance, 4,000. Score:

Chicago . . . 140050200—12 11 1  
Boston . . . 030000000—3 6 12  
Batteries—Thurston and Donahue, Kloeband and McGraw. Umpires—Snyder and Connelly. Time, 2:30.

LOUISVILLE, June 21.—Mercer was wild, miserably supported, and hit hard when his meant runs, and the champions fall easy victims to the nearly perfect play of the Orphans. Attendance, 2,000. Score:

Louisville . . . 00021524—12 11 1  
Washington . . . 030000000—3 6 12  
Batteries—Cunningham and Powers, Mercer and Farrell. Umpires—O'Day and McGraw. Time, 2:30.

CLEVELAND, June 21.—The fielding on both sides was bad, but the team gave a little the worst exhibition of the season. Attendance, 2,000. Score:

Cleveland . . . 100001003—5 11 6  
Brooklyn . . . 001400002—7 8 5  
Batteries—Powell and Criger, Yeager and Grim. Umpires—Lynch and Andrews. Time, 1:45.

ST. LOUIS, June 21.—The Philadelphia won today's game in the ninth inning. Taylor pitched an effective game. Attendance, 2,000. Score:

St. Louis . . . 001065000—6 7 4  
Philadelphia . . . 002200000—3 6 9  
Batteries—Taylor and Sargent, Platt and McFarland. Umpires—Emslie and Curry. Time, 2:15.

ATLANTIC LEAGUE.  
At Reading—  
Reading . . . 100101000—3 8 1  
Lancaster . . . 00000001—1 5 2  
Batteries—Pertsch and Heydon, West and Roth.

At Hartford—  
Hartford . . . 02100012—6 10 2  
Hartford . . . 000003020—6 10 0  
Batteries—Pfannmiller and Fox, Ames and Roach.

At Allentown—  
Allentown . . . 020010000—3 11 3  
Richmond . . . 021000300—6 9 2  
Batteries—Keener and Foster, Chesbro and Vignux.

At Newark—  
Newark . . . 510201000—9 9 4  
Paterson . . . 00000000—8 12 2  
Batteries—Cogan, McPartland and Rothfuss, Maginnis and Bernis.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.  
WASHINGTON, June 21.—Advices from France confirm the report of the return of Admiral Camara's fleet to Cadix.

MEXICO, June 21.—It is rumored here that another cabinet crisis is near at hand, and that the Sagasta ministry will soon tender its resignation.

SPAIN, June 21.—The Spanish prize Panama, captured April 25 by the Mangrove, will be sold at auction this afternoon for the benefit of its captors.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—It has been decided to send 6,000 men to reinforce Shafter in addition to the 4,000 proposed yesterday.

MOBILE, June 21.—The steamer Algouquin, formerly the tug El Toro, arrived here this morning, having captured the captain and crew of the Spanish prize Maria Dolores, captured by the Minneapolis.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—General Merritt gets final orders today. He will be given authority to transfer the command of his corps to the officer best qualified to handle it.

HONG KONG, June 21.—The American ship "Zan" has been compelled to leave here by Chinese authorities. She was sent here by Commodore Dewey for provisions and coal.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—The Navy Department refused to concur in the report to the effect that advice have been received from Admiral Sampson to the effect that the wreck of the old Merrimac does not block the harbor of Santiago. A prominent official today declared that no such report has been received and so far as is known, Lieutenant Hobson's work was effectual.

TERSE TELEGRAPHS.  
NEW LONDON, June 21.—Betting here is five to four in favor of Cornell, against Yale with Harvard as a close third. All the crews show great form. They are resting for the race tomorrow.

SPRINGFIELD, June 21.—The Rothwell Block was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss \$90,000.

RICHMOND, VA., June 21.—Detective Tomlinson, of this city, arrested a white man named C. R. Vaughan, who had been wanted in Newport News on a charge of misdemeanor.

## ALONG THE WATER FRONT

ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED ABOUT THE PIERS.

### CALENDAR FOR THIS DAY

Sun rises . . . 4:45  
Sun sets . . . 7:29  
High water—11:01 A. M. and 1:06 P. M.  
Low water—5:04 A. M. and 4:45 P. M.

### Weather Forecast

WASHINGTON, June 21.—Forecast for Wednesday, for Virginia—Fair weather; light northerly winds.

### ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Vessels Arrived Yesterday.  
Schooner Agnes E. Manson, Boston.  
Schooner William E. Downes, New